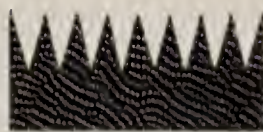


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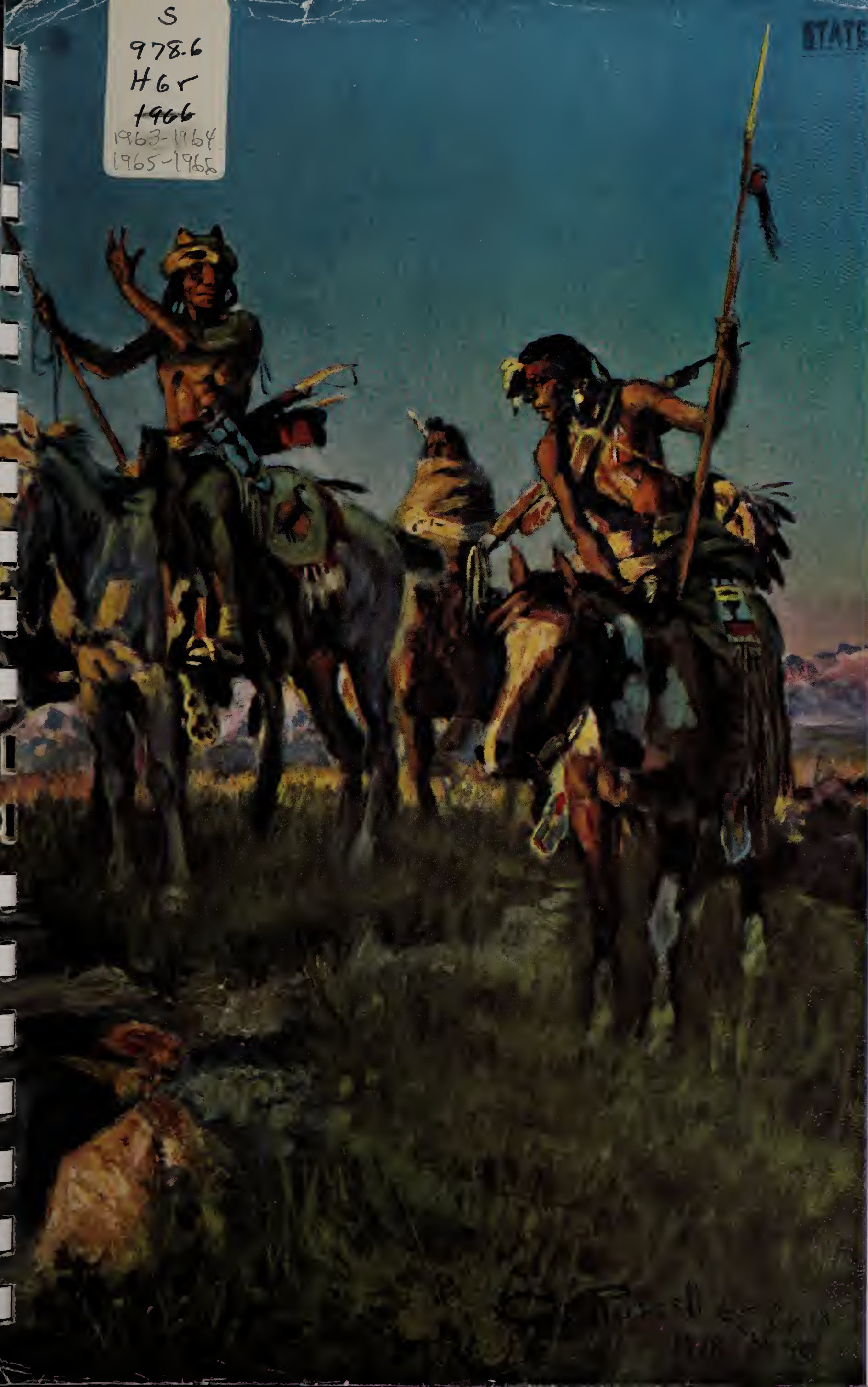
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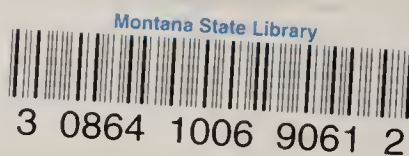
Biennial  
Report



JULY 1  
1966



Montana  
Historical  
Society



COVER SUBJECT:

Our cover subject, an original oil by Montana's beloved "Cowboy Artist", Charles M. Russell, is titled, "The Fireboat". Painted in 1918, the original painting now hangs in the Trigg-Russell Gallery, Great Falls, Montana.

The print we have used was obtained at no cost to the Montana Historical Society.



## F O R E W O R D

The report of the Montana Historical Society which follows is prepared and presented in accordance with Subsection 7, Section 44-523, Revised Codes of Montana, 1947, which, as revised by the Legislative Assembly of 1963, included the Montana Historical Society. This report covers, therefore, the years 1963-1964 and 1965-1966.

It is our hope that the information presented herein will be informative and will offer a revealing picture of our background, functions, and future goals. The graphic illustrations and charts presented in conjunction with brief narrative are designed to give an over-all picture of the Montana Historical Society.

This institution is one of the largest of its kind in the United States, both in terms of membership and facilities. The members of the Board of Trustees and the staff of the Montana Historical Society have worked hard to achieve this position. With the help, generosity, and encouragement of the people of Montana, we hope to render increasingly effective service.



The Honorable Tim Babcock  
Governor of the State of Montana  
State Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

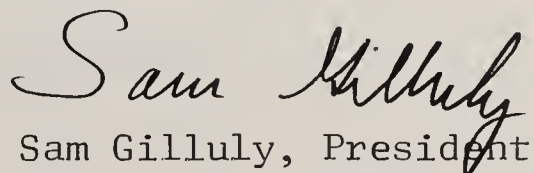
Dear Governor Babcock:

In accordance with Subsection 7, Section 44-523, Revised Codes of Montana, 1947, and by direction of the Legislative Assembly of 1963, we herewith submit our report.

It is our hope that this review of our activities will be of practical assistance to you and others who may wish to know more about the Montana Historical Society.

If the Society can be of service to you in any way, please call upon us. Our facilities are available to any individual at any time and we are more than anxious to serve the great State of Montana.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sam Gilluly, President  
Board of Trustees



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## A BRIEF HISTORY

Many Montanans are unaware that the Montana Historical Society is the state's oldest institution, created by a law passed by the first Territorial Legislature and charged with the duty of preserving the records of our past and present.

Meeting in the booming gold camp of Bannack in 1864 in the midst of political immaturity and legal chaos, the first legislators had the unbelievable foresight to pause and consider favorably a measure introduced by Francis M. Thompson, formerly of Massachusetts, establishing "a body politic under the name and style of the Historical Society of Montana."

The lawmakers passed the measure on February 2, 1865, and it was signed immediately by Territorial Governor Sidney Edgerton. Then and there, a small group of dedicated men began gathering the materials of Montana history: journals, maps, books, photographs, manuscripts, and newspapers. Regular meetings were held and the growing collection was subsequently moved to the Helena law offices of Wilbur Fisk Sanders.

On January 9, 1874, Helena suffered its third and most devastating fire; most of the city's business houses, 15 residences, and the precious Society collection were lost. There then began the laborious effort to collect replacement materials. New appeals brought in what is now a substantially complete collection of Montana newspapers, and other library materials almost beyond counting.

As the Society moved, first to the Lewis and Clark county courthouse, then to the new capitol building in 1902, museum objects were added to the collection until these and the library materials were stacked in haphazard array. This situation was greatly improved with the completion of the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building in 1952, again with the dedicated



help of a relatively few individuals and organizations.

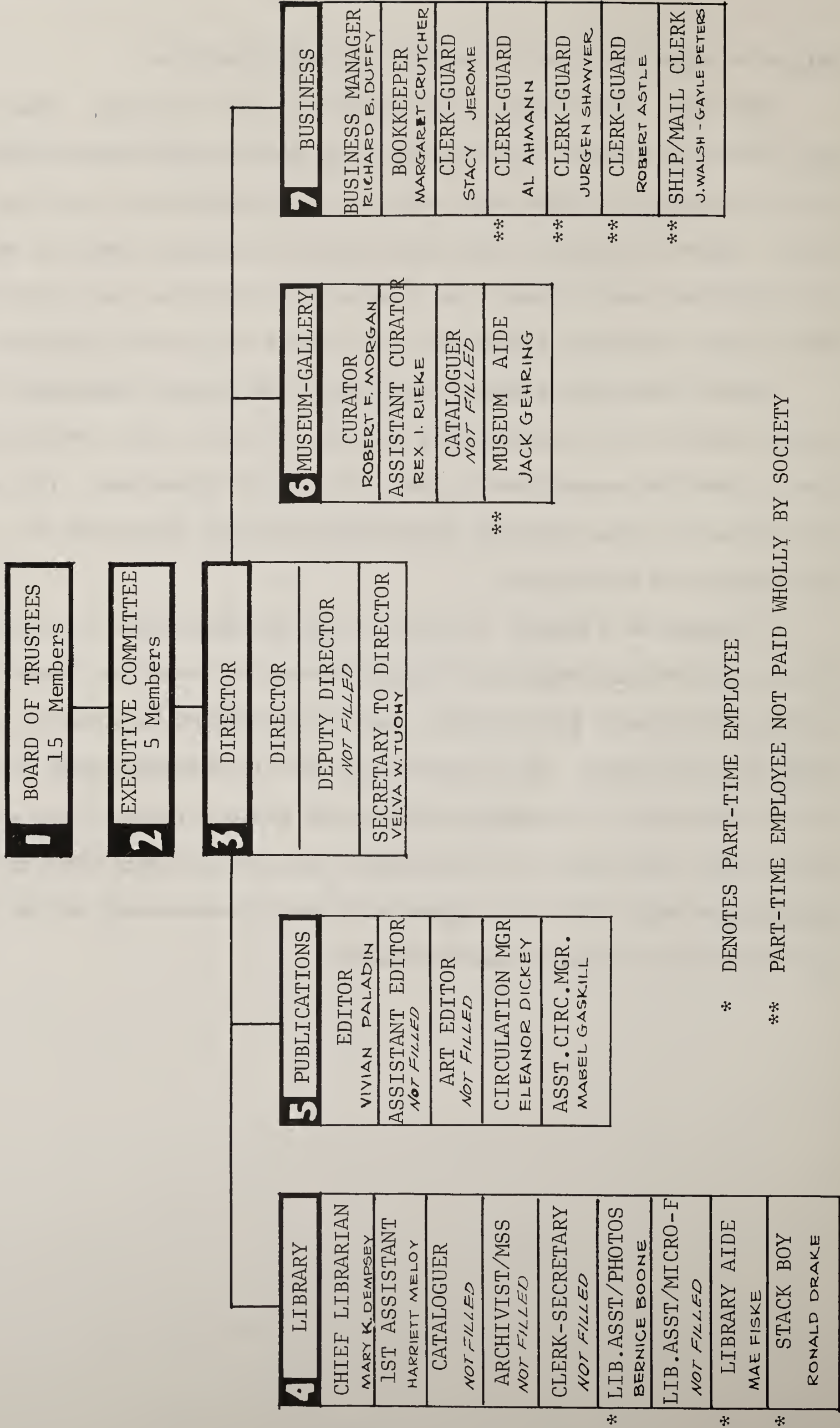
The work of the Society, of course, is never finished. There are many more records and papers and objects in existence which should become a part of the collection. These are usually not replaceable nor can they be duplicated. There is need for funds with which to actively seek out these items; yet the Society must compete for them with institutions and individuals from other states which are larger and have access to greater resources.

Indeed, the major resource upon which the Montana Historical Society has always relied is the pride of the residents of this state, their natural desire to have the records and objects of our past preserved. The institution can only add to that pride by maintaining suitable facilities for safekeeping and display and publication.

It should be a matter of pride to all Montanans that the men who first sat in our earliest legislative halls foresaw the need for preserving its history--in effect, its culture. That makes Montana very nearly unique among all the states. It is our belief that if presented with a clear picture of the work of the Montana Historical Society today, along with its plans, goals, and needs for the future, the men and women who work in our legislative halls today will agree with their predecessors of 102 years ago that this is vitally important work.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

### 1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The government and administration of the Society are vested, by legislative enactment, in a board of fifteen trustees, appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate. An appointment to replace a member whose term has expired is for five years. An appointment to replace a member whose term has not expired is for the unexpired term.

Trustees are appointed because of their special interest in the accomplishment of the purposes of the Society, their fitness for discharging these duties, and their willingness to devote time and effort in the public interest and to serve without compensation. The Governor, insofar as possible, appoints trustees from the various geographical areas of the state.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES -- MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Virginia Bulen Anderson, Missoula  
Casey E. Barthelmess, Miles City  
Sue Ford Bovey, Great Falls  
Merrill G. Burlingame, Bozeman  
Sam Gilluly, Helena  
Newell Gough, Jr., Helena  
Ben Harwood, Billings  
Howard A. Johnson, Butte  
O'Neil Jones, Bigfork  
E. E. MacGilvra, Butte  
Joyce Child Mackay, Roscoe  
Albert J. Partoll, Missoula  
Whitney Smith, Whitefish  
Willis B. Spear, Kirby  
Branson G. Stevenson, Great Falls

## 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The trustees may select an Executive Committee composed of five trustee members (President, Vice President, Secretary, and two additional members) and delegate to them such functions as will aid in the efficient administration of the affairs of the Society. Powers of the Executive Committee are outlined in the BYLAWS as adopted by the Board of Trustees.

## 3. DIRECTOR

The Director is appointed by the Board of Trustees. His salary, duties, and responsibilities are set by the Board of Trustees. The Director is fully responsible for the immediate direction, management, and control of the Society, subject to the general programs and policies established by the trustees. The Director may appoint and employ all assistants and employees required for the management of the Historical Society, subject to approval by the trustees.

## 4. LIBRARY

The library division, headed by Miss Mary K. Dempsey, is responsible for the maintenance, storage, and cataloguing of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, journals, diaries, papers, business records, photographs, and other materials illustrative of the history of Montana. In addition, programs of microfilming documents, newspapers, journals, diaries, etc., are the responsibility of this division. The library provides research facilities for student and scholar alike and has contributed to several Pulitzer prize winning novels, and numerous other publications and graphic productions. The library provides information upon request and maintains records of acquisitions for the library proper.

## 5. PUBLICATIONS

Mrs. Vivian Paladin, Editor, MONTANA, The Magazine of Western History, heads this division of the Montana Historical Society. Mrs. Paladin also writes, edits, and produces the supplement to the magazine, THE MONTANA POST.

This supplement to the magazine is published each month and in addition to historical feature articles, contains news of recent events at the Montana Historical Society. This department is also responsible for the writing, editing, and publishing of brochures, pamphlets, and other material produced by the Society.

#### 6. MUSEUM AND GALLERIES

This department is headed by Robert F. Morgan, Curator, and is charged with the maintenance, construction, design, and installation of all museum displays and art exhibits. This department also maintains essential records of acquisitions and properties of the Society, excluding materials for the library. In addition, assistance to other museums in Montana is furnished by the curator. This assistance is provided free of charge. Packing and shipping of valuable art objects are responsibilities of the curator as are restoration and identification of art objects. This division provides information concerning works of art and artifacts upon request.

#### 7. BUSINESS

The business division, under the direction of Richard B. Duffy, Business Manager, produces a major source of revenue for continued activities of this institution. This division is responsible for maintenance of a sales counter, retailing activities, and wholesale distribution for the Society. Individuals employed at the sales counter play a dual role--that of sales clerks and guards. College students, employed part-time and paid in part by the Society, are used as relief personnel at the counter and assist with packing and shipping. Budgeting, purchasing, and billing are handled through the business office.

All department heads are responsible to the Director for the operation of their respective divisions.



## PERSONNEL MATTERS

The principal change in personnel of the Society's staff during the period of this report has been the much-publicized dismissal of its former director, Michael S. Kennedy. Since there has been such widespread publication of many details of the matter, perhaps it is necessary only to summarize the situation.

Under the statutes governing the Society, the trustees have the power and duty to appoint a director, fix his salary, and prescribe his duties and responsibilities. The trustees are also charged with properly administering the Society, in the interests of preserving the heritage of this State and its people, and with laying down the general programs and policies for the Society, to be carried out by the director and his staff.

Unfortunately, differences of opinion arose between the trustees and Mr. Kennedy, as to their respective duties and responsibilities. These differences became more substantial early in 1966, some of which were reported in detail in the press.

Despite several attempts on the part of the Board to work out these differences, or to obtain an amicable resolution of them, the circumstances were such that it was not possible. Mr. Kennedy at one point expressed a wish that the Board discharge him, but when approached by a committee appointed to accept his resignation, he declined to do so.

These problems came to a climax in May, 1966, when the Board voted to terminate Mr. Kennedy's services. Kennedy promptly retained three lawyers to represent him, and filed suit in the District Court in Helena, seeking to compel the Board to reinstate him.

The case was taken into the Montana Supreme Court in August, a full-scale hearing was held early in September, and on October 11, 1966, the Montana Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the Board and against



Kennedy, ordering the District Court to dismiss the Kennedy proceedings. In essence, the Montana Supreme Court upheld the right of the Board of Trustees to terminate the services of any employee for any cause deemed sufficient by the Board.

The Board of Trustees deeply regrets the airing of so much of these circumstances. However, the Board has always had uppermost in its mind preservation of the reputation and standing of the Society, and therefore did everything reasonably possible to avoid anything which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Society.

Robert F. Morgan, curator of the museum, has been Acting Director of the Society since June 1, 1966. Some applications for the position of director have been received, but since no action could be taken upon them until a final disposition of the Kennedy litigation, it is not likely that a new director will be chosen until sometime in 1967. This is due, in part, to our current strained financial situation and the difficulty of competing with similar institutions which can offer higher salaries.

The Board of Trustees considers the Society fortunate in having high caliber individuals on its present staff. All of them are experienced and capable, and the accomplishments of the Society are a tribute to their competence and loyalty to the Board and the Society's programs, despite obstacles encountered in recent years.

The Society needs some additions to the staff, if it is to fully and adequately carry out its duties and responsibilities. Present salary schedules will also have to be increased if the Society is to hold those staff members whose talent and experience are such as to attract better offers from other institutions.

## ACQUISITIONS

To attempt a report of all acquisitions in the field of art and museum objects during the past four years is a formidable task. For the sake of brevity and clarity, we will mention only major acquisitions which have become a permanent part of our holdings. Items on loan will not be included, nor will a vast number of lesser items too numerous to list.

A word should be said, initially, about the generosity shown by a great many donors. There has been a nation-wide surge of interest in everything Western--the people, their history, and heritage. Montana's Centennial celebration of 1964 acted as a catalyst for renewed interest, and the collections of the Montana Historical Society benefited thereby.

A discerning look at the figures and facts which follow will reveal, however, that the acquisition of art objects, involving actual outlay of funds by the Society, has far superseded purchase of vital library and museum materials. In order for us to fulfill our over-all goals, a policy of orderly acquisition must be instituted so that our focus is not limited strictly to art. A uniform program of gathering art objects should have as its aim the enhancement of our basic collections. In short, quality--not quantity--should be our goal in the entire field of acquisition, not only because we lack funds to become a gigantic clearing house for art, but because we lack the space and facilities to utilize them for the benefit of the people.

1962-1963

### ART

During this period, art acquisitions took priority with a total of \$5,462.70 actually expended. The art work acquired was varied in scope

and importance to our permanent collection. Such names as Charles M. Russell, Edgar S. Paxson, Phillip R. Goodwin, Peter Tofft, and Olaf C. Seltzer were represented in the thirty pieces acquired. In addition to the purchased items, a total of 83 pieces was acquired through donation. The acquired art had an appraised value of \$117,125.00. Sixty-one pieces represented a major portion of the collection of modern art presented to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Poindexter of New York. Value of art acquisitions, purchased and donated, totaled \$122,587.00 and represented 113 items added to our permanent collection of art. Merchandise worth \$535.00 was traded for three other works of art, bringing the total to \$123,122.00 for this period.

#### MUSEUM

Thirty-seven donors presented objects for use in the museum proper during the year. Indian artifacts, mining implements, war souvenirs, and many articles of clothing were added to our collections. Pioneer household articles were numerous as were firearms of the frontier. Items included a hair piece worn by Chief Charlo of the Flatheads and a Bisley model 45 caliber Colt revolver which once belonged to an engaging Northern Montana outlaw called "Dutch Henry."

It is noteworthy that for this period, no funds were expended for museum objects. Acquisition funds were not available and there has been no appropriation for this important area of activity. We have not been able to compete with the many dealers and collectors who travel about the state acquiring relics of our past.

1963-1964  
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#### ART

Art acquisitions increased during this period with a total of \$12,717.00 expended. These included bronzes, drawings, and works in other media.



Etchings by Ed Borein, drawings by Granville Stuart, and two bronzes by Charles M. Russell were included. Additionally, part payment on five Russell pen and ink drawings from the series "Western Types" was made. This was an important acquisition and brought our total number of originals in this series to ten. Seven original drawings by Maynard Dixon were acquired. These included pen and ink drawings, pencil drawings, and two pencil drawings with water color. An oil painting by the late William Standing, Assiniboine Indian artist, was purchased for our collection of work by this recognized artist. Several contemporary works were also added.

Twenty-eight items were acquired through donation with an appraised value of \$ 12,285.00. Of major importance was the collection of works by Edgar S. Paxson donated by Dr. and Mrs. Franz R. Stenzel of Portland, Oregon. The collection contains a wide variety of media and subject matter. Merchandise valued at \$441.00 was traded for two water colors and one pastel drawing. Purchased works, donated items, and trade transactions amounted to \$25,443.00 for this period.

#### MUSEUM

Fifteen donors presented items for museum use from July, 1963, through June, 1964. Indian artifacts dominated the list of donations, but there were items of pioneer clothing and tools of the pioneer period. Of prime importance is a placer gold collection representing major gold-producing areas of Montana. The collection was installed in the mining room in the Formal Museum. One-half of this collection was presented, with an appraised value of \$1,200.00, and the other half was purchased. In addition, a gold nugget brooch was presented by Mrs. Annette Broadbent of Sussex, England. Mrs. Broadbent is the adopted daughter of Reginald Stanley, one of the "Four Georgians" who discovered gold in Last Chance Gulch in 1864. This brooch is made from nuggets which came from these historic diggings in 1864.



1964-1965

ART

The years 1964-1965 showed another increase in the purchase of art objects with a total expenditure of \$15,382.00 including \$7,450.00 worth of merchandise traded for art.

Among expenditures was the final payment on the "Western Types" series by Charles M. Russell. A major C. M. Russell bronze was purchased from the C. M. Russell Gallery of Great Falls. In addition, works by Bill Gollings, Hans Kleiber, Maynard Dixon, and Phimister Proctor, plus works of contemporary artists, were added to our permanent collection. One hundred nine items were catalogued with a majority of the pieces contained in a collection of the works of Montana artist John Beauchamp (44) and a collection of etchings by Hans Kleiber (43) for a total of 87 items. Five minor works by Maynard Dixon, relating to this region, were purchased. The majority of these are work sketches in oil. As yet we have no major works by Dixon in our collection. Two important donated acquisitions were the Kerr Ivory Collection contributed by the son and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Kerr of Butte, Montana, and 107 works by Edgar S. Paxson presented by Dr. and Mrs. Franz R. Stenzel, Portland, Oregon. Total appraised value of items presented during this period totaled \$39,560.00. No appraisal has yet been secured for the Kerr Ivory Collection. Total of trades, purchases, and donated art objects reached \$54,943.00.

MUSEUM

Because of interest in Montana's past stimulated by the Centennial celebration, museum acquisitions notably increased during this period. The Coburn Collection of Indian artifacts was purchased for \$10,000.00. This collection is exhibited, in part, on the ground floor level of the building.

Twenty-eight donors placed in our custody, as permanent gifts, pioneer relics and artifacts relating to this region. Most noticeable was the increase in Indian artifacts. In addition to the Coburn Collection, we were presented with a rather extensive collection of beadwork, Indian clothing, and accessories from the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Heidelman. Pioneer clothing continued to come in with quality improving with each acquisition. A marked increase in homestead items was noted and completion of the Homestead Frontier Room in the Formal Museum was assured. Military equipment and arms of nearly all wars were presented. Some increase was noted in the collection of items relating to the livestock industry in Montana but not of a significant nature.

Again, many important items were offered to the Society but we were unable to raise sufficient funds to compete with outside interests.

1965-1966  
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#### ART

Purchases of art objects showed a decline for this period totaling \$2,938.50. It should be noted that \$545.00 worth of merchandise was traded for art objects.

Etchings, paintings, and bronzes predominated during this period. Etchings by Borein and Kleiber totaled 100 pieces. One large oil by J. K. Ralston of Billings, depicting the Sully Expedition of 1864, was commissioned by the Society. Several contemporary pieces were added through purchase.

Works of art received from donors were appraised at \$174,900.00 for this period. It may be noted that several C. M. Russell bronzes were donated by patrons in addition to a large unfinished Charles M. Russell oil from the Cornelius F. Kelley estate. Included among acquisitions were paintings by Wimar, Paxson, Frank Tenney Johnson, L'Allmond, Standing, Seltzer, Couse, Berninghaus, and others.

A collection of European paintings was presented to the Society by Victor and Harry Hammer of New York. Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Poindexter donated an additional 13 paintings to the Poindexter Collection of modern art.

It is apparent that a definite policy for acquisition of art needs to be established. Because of lack of acquisition funds, we are forced to let other bidders, outside institutions, and dealers siphon off the few remaining pieces of art of Montana's prominent artists C. M. Russell, O. C. Seltzer, William Standing, and others. The total value of art objects donated, purchased, and traded for reached an all-time high of \$178,383.50 for this period.

#### MUSEUM

Thirty-four donors presented items to the museum collections for the period through December, 1966. It should be noted that again the quality and value of the items donated have shown improvement. Several small Indian collections were received. Notable was a squaw dress presented to the wife of former Congressman Scott C. Leavitt by Crow Chief Plenty Coups. The dress, adorned with over 230 elk teeth, is a worthy addition to our Indian holdings. Another item of interest is the Springfield carbine taken from Sitting Bull at the time of his arrest at Standing Rock Agency by Red Tomahawk and other agency police.

Additional items of frontier home life were received and relics of various wars were again in evidence. A collection of military flags was received from the office of the Adjutant General and they have been added to our military collection.

A decline in items of range life artifacts was noted and very few pieces were added in this area. A silver coffee service once owned by Nelson Story, prominent early-day cattleman and civic leader, was presented by his granddaughter, Mrs. Wilson D. Trueblood, Jr., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



It would appear that with the completion of our recent inventory--the first such taken--that many areas of our past have been neglected. It is our hope that we will be able to concentrate on these areas in the next biennium. It will be most difficult to acquire many items that we would like. Whereas, many of our acquisitions have been secured through the generosity of the owners, it is also apparent that many of the items that we need to round out our collections can be acquired only through direct purchase.



## FINANCIAL

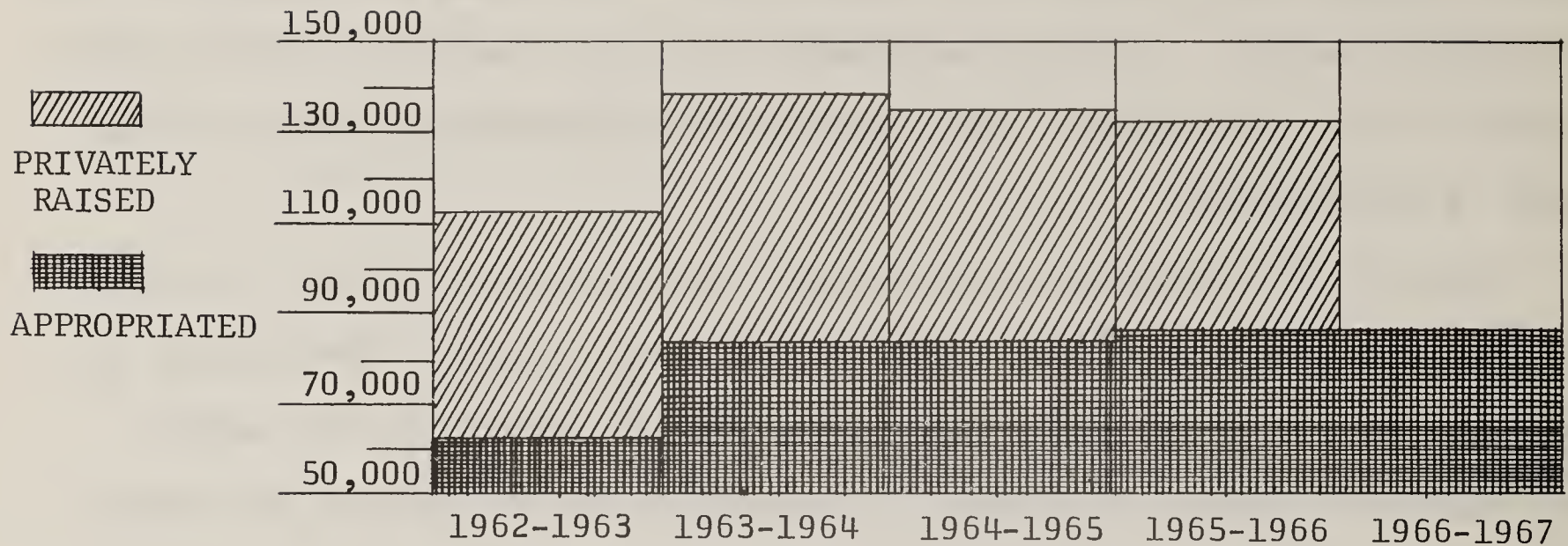
There are three basic sources from which the Montana Historical Society obtains its financial support. The first of these, of course, is the public, acting through the Montana State Legislature. The second is composed of the dues-paying members: private individuals who take a genuine interest in the welfare of the institution. The third is the merchandising efforts of the staff of the Society.

The role of the State of Montana has thus far been limited to housing the institution and providing a part of the salary budget. The Society has been able to extend its membership roster and to enlist from its members and friends the support necessary to strengthen the institution and enhance its services.

State appropriations in the past have not allowed for operational expenses such as travel, employee benefits, telephone, freight, postage, and--most importantly--for library and museum acquisitions. For all these expenses, the Society has had to draw upon private funds, always seeking new sources for those funds. This has meant continuing and time-consuming effort on the part of a very limited staff. It is time, we believe, that the efforts of our staff be channeled full-time into the areas for which each is responsible.

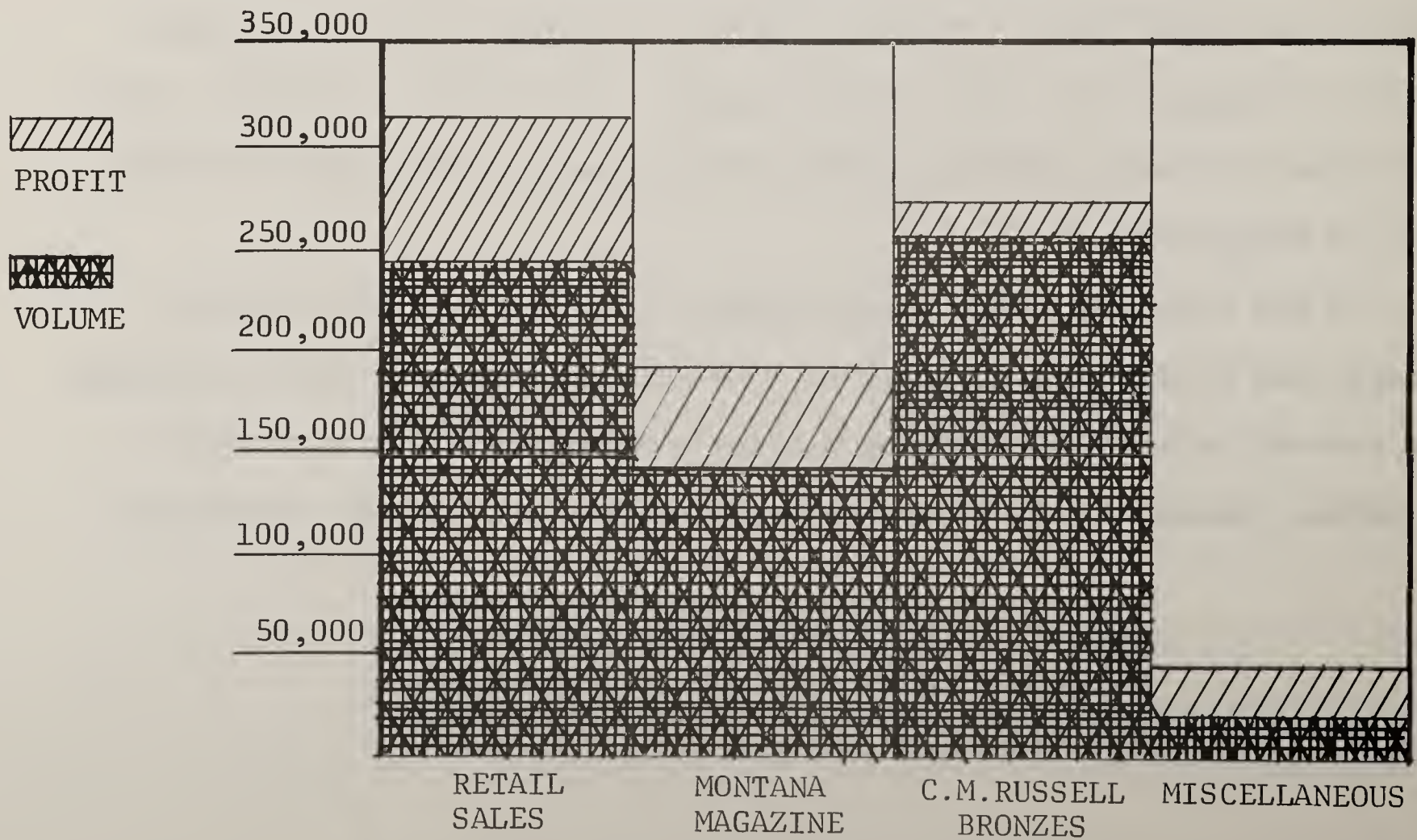
It has been said, with some validity, that the Montana Historical Society has become more involved in fund raising campaigns than in serving the over-all mandate given it by Montana's first Legislative Assembly: to gather, preserve, and disseminate the records and history of Montana.

# FUNDS REQUIRED FOR ACTUAL OPERATION



NOTE: PRIVATELY RAISED FUNDS NOT SHOWN FOR 1966-1967  
THIS FIGURE NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL JULY 1, 1967

## VOLUME VS. PROFIT: PRIVATELY RAISED FUNDS JULY 1, 1962, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1966





<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>PRIVATELY RAISED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1962-1963	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 47,299.31	\$ 111,299.31
1963-1964	83,849.00	55,351.45	139,200.45
1964-1965	83,849.00	54,515.66	138,364.66
1965-1966	<u>85,000.00</u>	<u>49,292.67</u>	<u>134,292.67</u>
	\$ 316,698.00	\$ 206,459.09	\$ 523,157.09

=====

PRIVATELY RAISED FUNDS

CASH BALANCE - ALL PRIVATE FUNDS - AS OF JULY 1, 1962           \$   51,575.97

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - July 1, 1962 - June 30, 1966

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>PROFIT</u>
Retail Sales	\$ 309,894.07	\$ 245,589.26	\$ 64,304.81
MONTANA, Magazine	186,632.78	138,042.41	48,590.37
Russell Bronzes	280,159.73	259,028.15	21,131.58
Miscellaneous	<u>42,837.59</u>	<u>9,748.49</u>	<u>33,089.10</u>
	\$ 819,524.17	\$ 652,408.31	\$ 167,115.86
			PROFIT- - - \$ 167,115.86

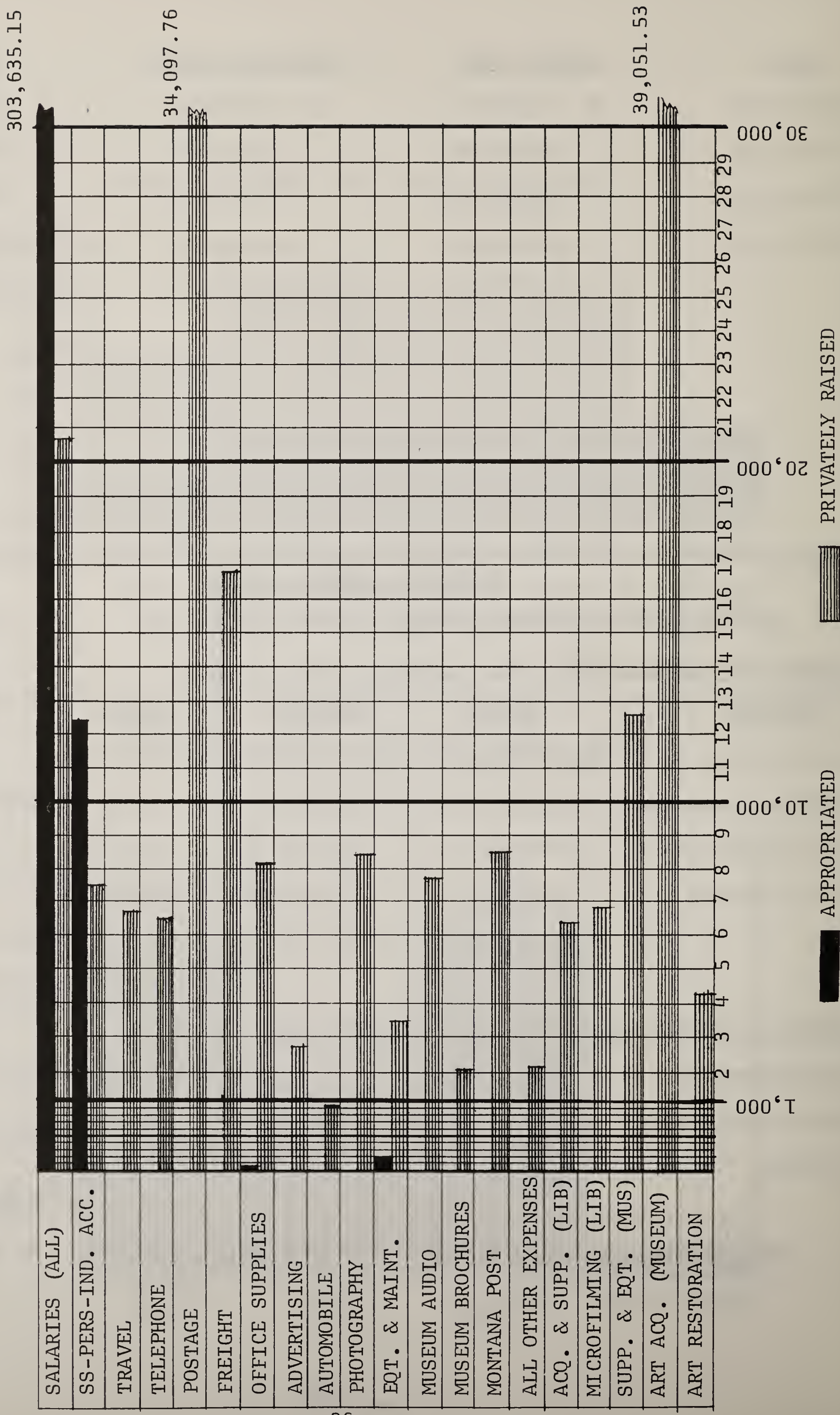
WHERE THE PROFIT WAS SPENT - July 1, 1962 - June 30, 1966

Administration	\$ 136,872.84
Museum-Galleries	56,200.17
Library	<u>13,386.08</u>
	\$ 206,459.09   \$ <u>206,459.09</u>

CASH BALANCE - ALL PRIVATE FUNDS - AS OF JUNE 30, 1966- - - - \$ 12,232.74



HOW APPROPRIATED & PRIVATELY RAISED FUNDS WERE USED  
JULY 1, 1962, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1966



WHERE THE MONEY WAS SPENT - July 1, 1962 - June 30, 1966

<u>Category</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Privately Raised Funds</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
Salaries (All departments)	\$ 303,635.15	\$ 20,854.55
Employee Benefits (Social Security, P E R S, Industrial Accident)	12,304.26	7,416.61
Travel		6,805.27
Telephone		6,588.00
Postage		34,097.76
Freight		16,969.88
Office Supplies	120.00	8,072.06
Advertising & Promotion		2,846.48
Automobile Expenses		942.83
Photography & Copying Expenses		8,437.70
Equipment & Maintenance of Equipment	400.00	3,424.60
Museum Audio System		7,844.84
Museum Brochures		2,024.04
Publishing <u>THE MONTANA POST</u>		8,535.75
All Other Expenses	<hr/>	<hr/> 2,012.47
	\$ 316,459.41	\$ 136,872.84
<u>LIBRARY</u>		
Acquisitions & Supplies		\$ 6,418.54
Microfilming		<hr/> 6,967.54
		\$ 13,386.08
<u>MUSEUM</u>		
Supplies & Equipment		\$ 12,869.39
Art Acquisitions		39,051.53
Art Restoration		<hr/> 4,279.25
		\$ 56,200.17



## PRESENT FACILITIES OF THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### NEEDS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

#### MUSEUMS

Two museum areas are presently maintained in the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building which houses the Montana Historical Society. The Formal Museum on the main floor presents a chronological picture of Montana history from prehistoric times to the present by means of a series of "frontiers"--dioramas and exhibits--in separate exhibit rooms. Because the Society has had to raise the funds from private sources, the museum has been through various phases of construction and completion for 13 years. We hope to finish all exhibits during the coming biennium. Necessary reworking of exhibits will, of course, be a continuous project throughout the coming years.

The Informal Museum on the ground floor was designed to accommodate changing exhibits in order that more artifacts and important acquisitions could be shown to the public. The concept was valid, but unfortunately sufficient staff has not been available to make the required changes. It is hoped that in the coming biennium plans for this area will be put in effect. (See Projections and Projects: 1967-1969).

The use of photographs, maps, and other graphic aids, combined with actual items and artifacts, prove most interesting to the public. We have endeavored to use the best in museum techniques to display Montana's past. We have been called upon to assist local museums and institutions of comparable size and larger in planning displays. We have assisted, at no charge, museums in Virginia City, Butte, Lewistown, Fort Benton, Glendive, and Havre with the actual work of designing and creating displays. This is but one of the services the Society has been able to offer in this field.



Museum personnel have been charged with the installation and maintenance of the Donald G. Nutter Trophy Room on the third floor of the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building. This area is occupied by offices of various veterans' organizations. The Donald G. Nutter Trophy Room is composed of exhibits featuring relics, souvenirs, and various memorabilia of past conflicts.

Starting with the Indian Wars and progressing through the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict, the room affords the viewer a graphic picture of the changes which have taken place in warfare over nearly a century of conflict.

In addition, a most unique exhibit featuring early aviation in Montana has been installed to further enhance the over-all picture of Montana's contributions to aviation in this country. This exhibit has proven to be most interesting and informative to the aviation enthusiast and layman alike.

#### GALLERIES

The Society has provided gallery exhibits of works by local and nationally known artists throughout the past few years. There has been variety as to art forms and subject matter but art with a western theme has predominated. The five galleries formerly maintained by the Society have now been reduced to a more practical, manageable three.

The hall gallery on the ground floor level was abolished in the first part of 1965 as unsuitable for changing exhibits. The permanent exhibit of the Montana Institute of the Arts is now located in this area, as well as the Kerr Collection of carved ivory.

The Gallery of Western Art, also on the ground floor, was abolished late in 1966. This gallery proved both costly to maintain and unwieldy for use as a one-man art gallery. There has been difficulty with security

here, for we have insufficient staff to maintain a close observation of this level. In addition, this large room with double doors opening to the rear of the building, has become the only available space large enough in which to handle mailing of the Society's quarterly publication, MONTANA, The Magazine of Western History. The area will now be used as well for shipping and receiving, storage of books, prints, and other items for mailing. Indeed, the entire mailing and receiving operations of the Society have been set up here.

This change has streamlined our business and mailing operations. At the same time, we have reduced costs of shipping and receiving and eliminated losses through vandalism.

With the elimination of this large room as a gallery, museum personnel can now concentrate their efforts on the Formal and Informal C. M. Russell Galleries and the Gary Cooper Gallery, all on the main floor.

A program of restoration and reframing of the original Russell works has been inaugurated and is nearing completion. The collection has been catalogued and all items on exhibit have been properly marked or credited. Restoration of Russell paintings has been an expensive matter but a vitally important one.

Extensive plans have been prepared for the renovation of the Informal Russell Room (see Projections and Projects: 1967-1969) and if revenue-producing plans are fruitful, we hope to complete this project in 1967.

The fine Gary Cooper Gallery on the main floor will feature contemporary artists throughout 1967-1969. Long-range planning of quality exhibits will offset the "quantity" concept of previous years. Some renovation of this gallery will be undertaken when funds are available, including surfacing of the walls and carpeting to reduce sound, eliminate glare and slippery floors, and improve the appearance of this important gallery. It is the

opinion of the custodial staff that carpeting will reduce maintenance hours.

It is our opinion that fewer but better art shows at the Society will enhance our efforts in the field of fine art.



## LIBRARY

To carry out its obligations, the library has developed four areas of administrative responsibility: the organization and care of manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, and state archives. A microfilm operation adapted to the needs of these areas is also part of the library's jurisdiction as well as the maintenance and administration of the library's printed book resources.

To trace statistically these varied operations during the past four years--however extensively this might be done--would still fail to present the tasks involved in each operation. The library has had, since 1864, a twofold obligation: to gather and present the history of Montana's past and to make this history known.

Activities leading up to the Centennial observance of 1964 enabled us to concentrate our efforts on this responsibility and to utilize more fully than ever before the Society's resources. With the conclusion of Centennial events, we looked to more normal times, but interest in historical research continues. We believe this indicates a greater consciousness and appreciation of the research facilities of the Society and a growing interest in both state and local history on the part of laymen as well as scholars.

During the past four years we have grown steadily in every area of our responsibility. This growth has created or intensified our problems--problems of space, lack of personnel, and lack of funds.

It is necessary, then, to view this report in terms of the overwhelming odds which these problems have imposed upon the resources and staff of the historical library.

The library's collection is limited to all aspects of Montana's history and its leaders from 1864 to date, with emphasis on the following subject

areas: geology, mining, livestock industry, fur trade, transportation, frontier life, ranch life, military and political history, railroad surveys; the history, archaeology and anthropology of the Montana Indian (pre-1864) and his part in Montana history (post-1864); Montana imprints, first editions of selected Montana authors; books by and about Charles M. Russell.

On an average day, five to eight patrons seek help on specific research problems. Six to eight research requests come through the mails and fifteen telephone calls require some research assistance. This adds up to a total for the year of 1,560 persons receiving help with specific problems. Solving these involve the use of some 93,600 volumes, including manuscripts, newspaper volumes, and reels of microfilm. An estimated 5,040 pieces of correspondence and telephone requests have thus been answered during the period covered in this report.

This increase in service load--with a proportionate decrease in staff--has led to a serious imbalance. The staff must now spend so much of its time in helping patrons and answering correspondence that the basic work of accessioning, cataloging and performing other essential technical functions has fallen hopelessly behind.

Correspondence, particularly, reflects this imbalance. During the biennium, 1,258 inquiries covering a wide range of subjects relating directly or indirectly to Montana have come from all parts of Montana, from residents of other states and foreign countries. Many of these letters require lengthy research to provide adequate answers.

During this biennium the library has served the needs of professional historians, novelists, local historical investigators, journalists, state officials, lawyers, genealogists, radio and television researchers, publishers, and graduate students.

Some typical services rendered state agencies have been the use of

directories of cities and counties of the state and of state telephone directories; state newspapers checked for announcements of state bids, and source material used in the preparation of publicity releases and departmental publications. Additionally, many inquiries directed to the Governor's office, the Secretary of State's office, and the Advertising Department of the State Highway Commission are channeled to the Society library for reply. Research in connection with the quarterly publication of the Historical Society's, MONTANA, The Magazine of Western History, is, of course, a continuing responsibility of the library.

While service is the end objective of the library, building the collection is the indispensable condition upon which the ability to render service must rest.

Due to a limited staff and an almost nonexistent book fund, no organized or projected acquisitions program could be formulated during the past biennium. Purchases were restricted to essential reference items and to items available at the Society's book counter at a 40 per cent discount. The bulk of the library's acquisitions for that period, then, came as gifts.

One such gift of considerable interest is a collection of printed material--books and pamphlets--relating to General George Custer, given by Mrs. M. Russell Perkins. The collection, totaling approximately 108 items, also includes some manuscript material of interest.

Both Montana and out-of-state authors donated copies of their books and pamphlets. Particularly useful gifts are the local histories, historical sketches of church groups, and genealogical items which these authors sent.

Throughout the biennium as the appended summaries show, significant material has been added to the library and its special collections--manuscripts, newspapers, and photographs.

A glance at the statistics will reveal the performance of an understaffed



department endeavoring to meet its responsibilities on several fronts and in the face of problems of space, lack of personnel, and lack of funds.

LIBRARY ACCESSIONS, FISCAL BIENNIUM, 1964-1966

Total bound volumes of printed materials:	381
books, periodicals, newspapers and govern- ment publications (Federal and Montana)	
Total number of reels of microfilm	310
Newspapers on microfilm	
Reels by purchase	32
Reels produced by the Society	231
Manuscripts (includes 12 theses)	30
Montana documents	17
Total number of photographs	500 (approx.)
Manuscript pieces and volumes (in terms of linear feet of shelf space)	30 feet

MANUSCRIPTS

Thanks to the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation of St. Paul, to its grant to the library of Montana State University, and to Bozeman's sharing of the fruits of this grant with the Historical Society, the Society during the past biennium has been able to add substantially to its manuscript collection.

The material gathered by MSU and loaned to the Society for microfilming include the Alfred Myers diaries (documentation of a rancher's career from 1868 to 1891); the McCollum diaries (life in the Gallatin Valley 1900 to 1950); correspondence of James Spray from which evolved a history of the Gallatin; Sallie Raymond's diary (a school teacher's year in Virginia City, 1865); hotel registers from Ferris Hot Springs and Red Lodge; correspondence of Chief Plenty Coups.

Through MSU we were also able to microfilm a number of records available

at the Thompson-Hickman Museum in Virginia City.

The papers of Herbert M. Peet, Montana journalist, presented to the Society by his widow, Mrs. Marie Peet, are another significant acquisition. These materials, representing five cartons and a file case of notes and documentation, were gathered by Mr. Peet in preparation for his biography of S. T. Hauser.

To Miss Beatrice deLacy, the Society is indebted for the loan for copying of a hundred or more letters written by her uncle, Walter W. deLacy, Montana's mapmaker, during his later years.

And through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Craney, the library has received five volumes of the Greater Montana Foundation Radio and TV Awards (1961-1965) and three volumes of typescript drafts of former Senator Burton K. Wheeler's speeches (1930-1946).

The names of other manuscript donors during the biennium appear in a listing on file in the Director's office.

As the organizing and processing operations for these new accessions get under way, the usefulness of the materials to scholars will grow accordingly. Given additional help during the coming biennium, we will be in a position to arrange, sort, box, label, and catalog this material as it deserves.

Paralleling this program, a start should also be made on the backlog of unprocessed manuscript collections in the library. One such collection, consisting of approximately 1,791 linear feet, represents a remarkable span of Montana banking company archives (1865-1900). With the assistance of Dr. Stanley Davison, faculty member of Western Montana College of Education, who has offered his services and who will come to Helena as his teaching schedule permits, we plan to sort this extensive collection into rough categories, preparatory to determining a final plan of arrangement.

## NEWSPAPERS

The library's newspaper files cover nearly every community of the State's 56 counties, from earliest issue published in Montana (August 27, 1864) to date.

Nearly all Montana publishers contribute their newspapers to the Society for filing. Fifteen dailies, 76 weeklies, 2 semiweeklies, 1 biweekly and 2 monthlies are now being received. Three out-of-state industrial organs oriented to Montana's affairs are also part of the current holdings.

A microfilm program was initiated some years ago for preservation and space-saving purposes. During this biennium 231 rolls of film were completed: 131 rolls representing the unbound files of the current weekly papers published 1963 through 1965, 100 rolls covering earlier files.

In addition, the library now purchases the microfilm edition of the Great Falls Tribune and the Billings Gazette. A total of 32 rolls became available during the biennium.

This biennium saw the completion of the revised and detailed record of the library's bound newspaper holdings. It was also during this period that the library made a concerted effort to reduce the gaps in its holdings.

During fiscal 1965-1966 on three scouting trips into various parts of the state, we were able to contact publishers who loaned their files for microfilming purposes. In this way, we were able to add to our holdings over seven titles of Montana newspapers, in files ranging from 15 to 16 years each.

The Society's newspaper files are regarded as the one most valuable historical source in terms of completeness, to be found in the state.

On scores of occasions during the past biennium, readers called for one or more of yesteryear's newspapers. The research scholar turned to these sources to find his needed documentation; the Montana resident seeking



a delayed birth certificate or attempting to qualify for social security or other retirement programs relied heavily, and frequently as a last resort, on the newspaper birth notice establishing proof of his birth and place of residence. One hundred eleven former Montana residents wrote requesting such information; thirty-three of these searches undertaken by the staff yielded the necessary records.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

As in previous years, the press, television, research historians, authors, publishers, as well as individuals made heavy use of the Society's picture collection.

During fiscal 1964-1966, 1,523 photo prints were prepared in response to some 350 requests which came from European countries and from coast to coast in the United States.

We assisted such New York publishers as Crowell-Collier Press, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Rand McNally, and Harper & Row in finding illustrations for their book-length manuscripts, and such periodicals as the American Heritage, Minnesota History, and Journal of the West.

In addition, we supplied the National Film Board of Canada with material for its television projects; and both the Nebraska and the Minnesota historical societies, as well as our own, borrowed from our photo resources.

Pictures came to the library from many sources. Some of the larger collections for the biennium include:

Snow pictures from the Chicago, Milwaukee Railroad;  
early railroad scenes from the Great Northern Railroad;  
some 50 pictures of steamboats on Flathead Lake; flood  
pictures (1964) from the Glacier Reporter; from Alta L.  
Deem, 46 photos of the Deem homestead; Margaret B.

Sisson's photo album of a hunting trip to the Little

Belt, 1913; nine Coburn family ranch pictures.

As the biennium ended, work was well advanced on a picture analytic index, a work-aid devised to shorten search time for staff members when filling picture requests stressing minutiae rather than broad subject categories.

### STATE ARCHIVES

The State of Montana has no archival agency established by law, nor has the Historical Society been designated as the archival depository of the state.

In the past, however, a group of miscellaneous documents, such as the records of the Commission on Reorganization of State Government, territorial licenses, and tax receipts were placed in the Historical Society library.

Within recent years, certain types of Montana documents have also been requested by research scholars and graduate students. To meet this need, the library prepared microfilm copies of these wanted documents, with the approval of the agencies having custody of the materials. These copies were then added to the holdings of the Historical Society library. Thus, there has developed a small, selective collection of Montana documents--without benefit of legislation, however--to designate such a collection as the state's official archives.

During fiscal 1964-1966, the following documents were added to the library collection:

Fiscal reports of City and County Clerks to the Montana State Bank Examiner	1964	4 rolls
	1965	4 rolls
Montana Board of Education Minutes, v.8-13, 1962-1965		4 rolls

Montana Legislative Assembly  
Minutes of Committees (39th  
Legislative Assembly, 1965)

5 rolls

Montana State Hail Insurance  
Board. Reports, 1917-1964

1 roll

The library anticipates additional state documents in the future as non-current state records of historical value are designated for archival retention by the State Controller in accordance with the Revised Codes of Montana, Section 82-3313.

The Montana Historical Society library is also a depository for duplicate copies of microfilm from departments where the policy is to retain one roll in the department of issue and transfer a duplicate to some other building for safe keeping.

#### MICROFILMING OPERATIONS

During the past biennium, microfilming operations on the library premises netted a total of 178,586 exposures or approximately 25,513 feet.

Newspapers accounted for 72 per cent of the total - 128,728 exposures - or about 18,389 feet (approximately 184 reels).

The largest single project was the filming of the Livingston Enterprise for 1884-1910. This accounted for 27 rolls of film.

Film totals for 24 other newspapers of shorter runs ranged from one to twelve rolls each.

Also included in the microfilm count for the biennium were 30 rolls resulting from the loan of manuscript materials obtained through the courtesy of the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation.

Microfilm copies of Montana documents, representing state governmental publications of historical interest provided an additional 18 rolls. Positive copies of this material were shared with the Documents Division of the University of Montana.



The continued growth of the library's microfilm holdings, coupled with its program for microfilming all current intake of newspapers creates certain needs with which we must cope shortly.

While it is true that microfilm occupies only a small fraction of the space needed for bound files of newspapers, microfilm does demand both space and storage facilities.

The library has exhausted its regular cabinet storage facilities and is using boxes; the boxes require shelving space. We must, therefore, make provision for additional storage cabinets or metal shelving in order to keep our filming program operating efficiently.

From time to time requests come for film copies of certain library materials. We accept these requests if they will fit into our filming schedule. During the biennium we provided some 700 feet of film for the personal use of scholars who asked for this service.

#### ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF THE LIBRARY

JUNE 30, 1966

Volumes of Books, Newspapers, Periodicals, and Governmental Publications	46,232 (Includes 6,039 bound newspaper volumes)
Reels of Microfilm (includes 1,191 newspapers; 292 manuscripts; 221 state documents; 50 rolls uncataloged)	1,754
Photographs	21,132 (approx.)
Maps	630
Manuscripts, Pieces (in 22 file drawers)	6,025 (approx.) (accumulated count as of June 30, 1964)

Manuscript, Pieces (unprocessed)	30
(in terms of linear feet of shelf space)	linear feet (added during fiscal 1964-66)
Manuscripts, Volumes and Pieces (unprocessed)	1,791
Montana banking companies' archives (in terms of linear feet of shelf space)	linear feet

## PUBLICATIONS

### MONTANA, The Magazine of Western History

Of first priority in the publishing program of the Montana Historical Society, since 1951, has been the quarterly magazine of history which now reaches readers in every state in the union and in 24 foreign countries and Canada. It is the most widely read journal of its kind published by any state historical society.

First published (beginning in January, 1951) under the name MONTANA MAGAZINE, the quarterly was of modest 5x8½ size, used little illustration, and covered only Montana history. In 1953, the format was enlarged to its present 7½x10½, and its scope widened to include history of all the western states. Use of illustration was greatly increased through the years, and artwork front covers in full color--predominantly works by Charles M. Russell--began to be a distinctive feature.

For the past four years, circulation of the magazine has remained quite constant: from 8,000 to 8,500 direct subscriptions, and 3,500 to 4,000 newsstand sales. Actual production costs have also remained relatively stable. Striking an average of content and illustration since 1962, actual printing costs have been about \$6,500.00 an issue. Counting such miscellaneous costs as envelopes in which to mail the magazine, postage, and notices of expiration, the total yearly costs of producing and mailing the magazine have averaged just under \$35,000.00 for the four issues of each volume year.

The magazine is an expensive publication to produce, since advertising is at a minimum (less than 2 per cent of contents and restricted to appropriate subjects). Relatively small press runs, as compared with national magazines, result in a higher unit cost for printing.



It is a matter of pride, however, that the readership is constant: a subscriber who gets the magazine for longer than a year usually remains a subscriber. Its contents appeal to the thousands of people who have a genuine interest in western history and who wish to have it presented in an attractive, illustrated, and readable manner. The magazine is not a "dry" historical journal, and yet it appeals to those who deplore the distorted western history presented on television and in "pulp" western magazines. We believe the format is solid and valid, and letters indicate that within the volume year of 1966 we have been able to improve the quality of layout and design to the point where its appeal has been widened.

It is our intention to continue to upgrade the quality of the articles appearing in the magazine along with more attractive layout. In order to do this, full use will be made of the services of many qualified people whose names appear on our masthead as Regional Editors and members of the Editorial Board. In the past, these posts were largely honorary and rarely were these people--who serve without remuneration--asked to read manuscripts or act in an advisory capacity. The magazine's editor has already sought and received invaluable help from these qualified people, particularly in the matter of helping to judge the historical accuracy and validity of unpublished manuscripts.

It is our intention also to plan contents well in advance of publication, to seek out articles on specific subjects which have not been covered by the magazine in the past from writers and historians who are competent to the task. That will be in contrast to free acceptance in the past of articles which are the result of rewriting from secondary sources by persons who merely add a bit of color and sensationalism to material already covered by others. In short, we will seek to publish original articles on fresh subjects which reveal a depth of research on the part of the author with

the use of primary research sources. We will, of course, maintain the basic format of readability and attractiveness of presentation.

When quality of both subject matter and artistic excellence warrants it, we intend to use art other than Russell in some issues of the future. It should be emphasized that using other subjects will be approached with care: they will be appropriate to the contents of a particular issue and will be of such quality as to lend themselves well to full cover reproduction.

#### THE MONTANA POST

In May, 1963, the Society began the monthly publication of its official newsletter, published under the title THE MONTANA POST. It is a four-page resume of activities of the Society and advertising has usually been restricted to merchandise sold by this institution. To add readability and interest, a series of feature articles appropriate to the current month has been published. These are usually based on material in the Historical Society library files, notably the newspaper files. While these are, in effect, short, historical sketches, many of them have generated a great deal of reader interest. The basic purpose of THE MONTANA POST, however, is to tell the news of the Society. Costs of production and mailing have exceeded proceeds from advertisements and plans are to convert from monthly to less frequent publication beginning in 1967. It is our belief that THE MONTANA POST serves well its basic purpose: to act as the voice of the Montana Historical Society.

#### HERITAGE SERIES

Since 1952, the Society has published a series of monographs usually based on an article or articles on a subject of particular interest which have already appeared in the magazine. They are, in effect, reprints of certain magazine contents. Because of the costs of printing involved,

however, and the necessity for creating covers and in some cases of rearranging contents, the series has been substantially more expensive than reprints commonly issued by other historical publications. It is our belief that this series, if continued on an expensive format basis, should contain materials not published in the magazine for reasons of length or other considerations. Experience has shown that these have not sold well to subscribers, since the articles have already been read in the magazine. Except in very rare instances, the series has not been feasible or valid in relation to its cost.

It is our plan, therefore, to restrict the Heritage Series to materials not published in the magazine but which are, in our opinion, exceptionally worthy of separate publication in monograph form.

#### PERSONNEL AND PLANS

As with many departments of the Historical Society, the publications program operates with an extremely small staff. All editorial work on both the magazine and newsletter, all brochures, news releases, and other journalistic work are done by one person. An assistant with education and experience in journalism is very greatly needed in this department.

Likewise, the circulation of both publications is handled to a very large extent by one person. It is obvious that if our circulation continues to rise, as indicated since the Summer issue, 1966, this department must be augmented with more help. It should be pointed out, for instance, that the institution of "zip coding" on all addressograph plates this past Fall was a task of considerable proportions. It should be added here that mailing of both the magazine and newsletter, involving zoning, tying, and distribution in boxes and mail sacks is done by staff members who "double in brass" and leave other duties to do this in order to maintain our low postage rate.



Both our sustaining publications should be continued and enhanced and we should avoid undertaking the publication of other writings--including books and monographs--until such time as our ability to handle them well is greatly increased. As in other areas of the Society's services, the emphasis should be on quality rather than on quantity. Our resources, both financial and personal, should be devoted to basic goals.

## INVENTORY

Beginning in June, 1966, a complete inventory of all property owned or in the custody of the Montana Historical Society was taken--the first in the Society's history. It was taken at the direction of the Board of Trustees and does not include the holdings of the library.

Taking the inventory required nearly eight weeks and the services of four individuals, in addition to staff members. Following its completion, a substantial amount of clerical and administrative work was still necessary to make the inventory useful through indexing and cataloguing. This work is still continuing, and carding and indexing of all art work have been completed. Cataloguing will require additional time and will begin shortly. Accepted procedures for cataloguing will be used thereby making the collection much more accessible.

For the first time, the Society has a knowledge of exactly what it has and what it is lacking. A case in point: our collection of cowboy equipment--saddles, bridles, boots, chaps, and spurs--is not what it should be for an institution of this scope. Our inventory reveals that in some cases we have a great many items in storage that could never be exhibited. Many are in such a state of disrepair that no amount of restoration would put them in shape for exhibit. We are now in a position to establish standards and criteria for items to be added to our collections. We will now be able to begin sorting out those items with actual and authentic historical value from those that fall into the category of "souvenirs."

Standards for acquisitions are being prepared for approval of the Board of Trustees, partly through comparison with standards commonly used in institutions of comparable size and scope. Our collections will finally reflect this geographic region as it had been intended.

At some future time, it is hoped that the Society will have funds available to publish a full catalogue, revised annually, which would include art, art objects, and objects of historical importance. Only in this form will this collection be recognized.

Completion of the over-all inventory and the cataloguing and indexing will enable the Society to maintain a perpetual inventory of its properties. It will also permit the Society to dispose of duplicate items and to plan for acquisitions needed to round out its collections.



## PROJECTIONS AND PROJECTS: 1967-1969

During the past four years, the Society has endeavored to improve present viewing and exhibiting areas and complete preparatory work on long-range planning for the future. It is apparent that under the present system of exhibition, many items in our collection could never be taken from museum storage and shown effectively to the public. In order to display many more of these items, and to encourage potential donors as well, a plan of major proportions has been developed for the museum on the ground floor level.

This area was originally conceived as an informal museum with ever-changing exhibits. But both time and personnel have been inadequate to pursue this concept. Indeed, it has been more than four years since a new exhibit was added and more than five years since an appreciable portion of the room was changed. Potential donors, very naturally, wish to know if the items they have given will be exhibited. Unfortunately, we have had to tell all too many that when time and space permit, we will try to exhibit the items they donate.

### FRONTIER TOWN MAIN STREET

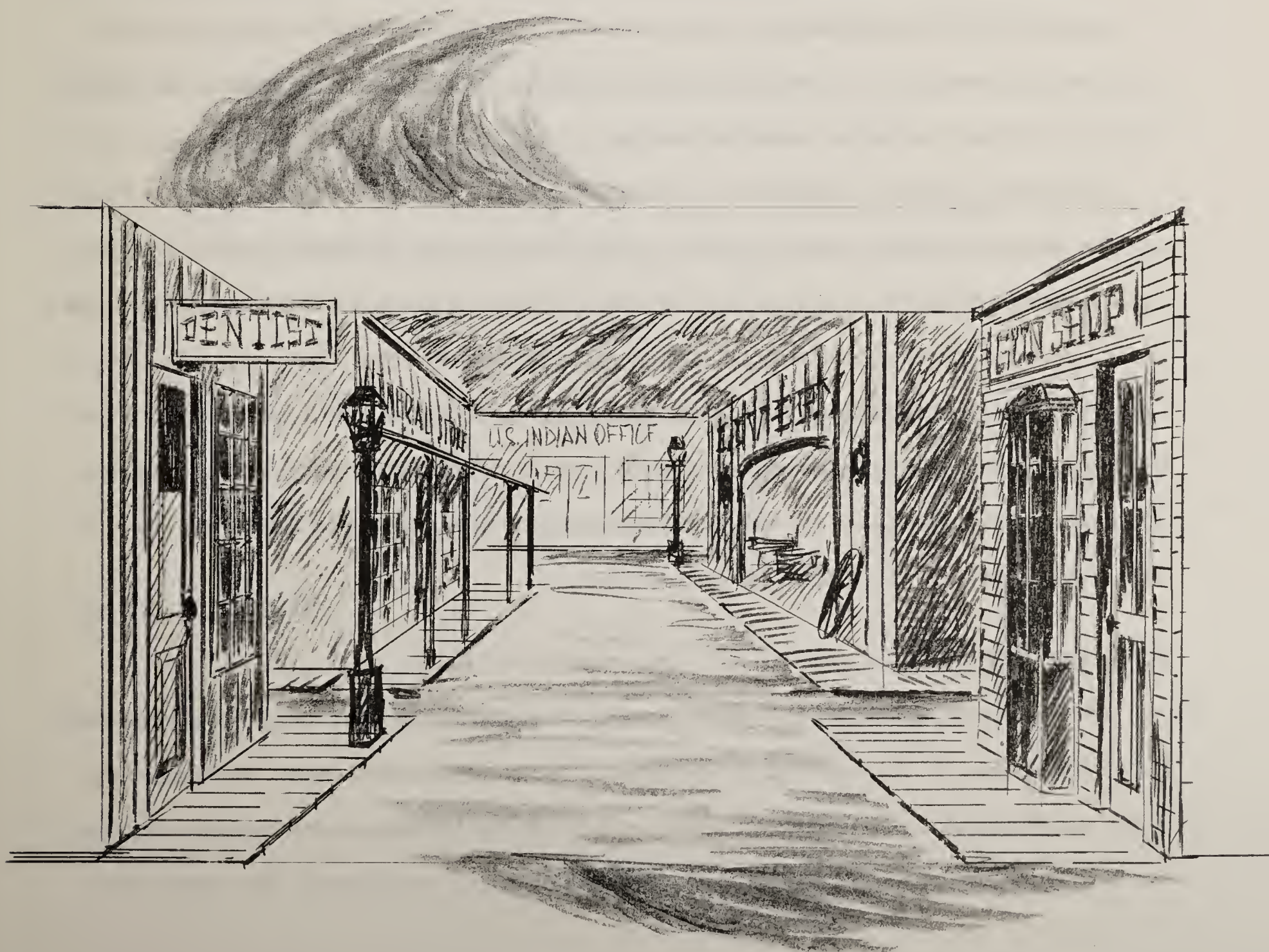
We now have what we consider to be a practical and workable solution. It is our intention, funds permitting, to construct a completely authentic western frontier street scene on the ground floor level. We now have in storage enough authentic objects to create and furnish at least twelve frontier business and professional establishments. We envision that under this plan, which has found great favor in many fine museums, more than 80 per cent of the items now in storage can be exhibited in an orderly and effective manner. The tentative list:

Gun Shop	General Store	Ladies Apparel Shop
Dentist Office	Indian Agent Office	Sheriff Office
Blacksmith Shop	Hotel Lobby	Newspaper Office
Holladay Stage Office	Jewelry Store	Saloon



The costs involved and the technical nature of the project make it necessary for the museum curatorial staff, now consisting of two individuals, to undertake the work required. It would be to our advantage to contract for the majority of the construction, but funds for this are not now available. Estimated costs total \$26,000.00 not including the cost of labor. With the use of only two museum staff members, the project will take approximately two years to complete. But depending on finances and demands on the staff, it is our hope that it can be completed in a much shorter time.

Below is an illustration of how the street scene will appear when the viewer first enters the room. Both from the standpoint of wider exhibition of museum objects and from that of over-all enhancement of the Society's ability to entertain and educate, this is a worthy goal.





## CHARLES M. RUSSELL: GROWTH OF AN ARTIST

Another needed major project of the coming biennium will involve a portion of the Charles M. Russell collection. The Russell collection is widely known and has been given national publicity since the building was opened to the public over thirteen years ago.

We are an institution that educates as well as entertains. Russell art has now achieved national--indeed, worldwide recognition--and the time has come when the viewer would like to know more about the artist. We have, therefore, conceived a project which will not only show the progression of the works of Russell, but his personal life in relation to his artistic output.

The project will encompass two facets--Russell's works and his life. To accomplish this difficult task, exhibits are proposed which will show periods in Russell's life with works of art, artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, and any related printed matter.

Security plays a major role in the establishment of this room. This is the room in which the loss of a small Charles M. Russell water color took place. With the increased value of Russell art, it is imperative that every reasonable precaution be taken to prevent further losses.

Museum technique, rather than gallery technique, will be used. Each exhibit will be in a closed case so security will no longer be a problem. This area on the main floor rates a top priority and, if financing is available, work will begin immediately.

## BUILDING EXPANSION

A much needed addition to our existing building has been proposed for consideration in the coming biennium. Increased interest in history and art, expansion of services expected of this institution, shortages of needed work areas, and continued growth have all indicated the need for



more space.

As projected plans have been advanced, it appears that the addition will satisfy requirements for future years. We hope that the 40th Legislative Assembly will provide the funds for this major project.

By using two existing walls at the rear of the present building, an added three-floor structure will produce about twenty-five thousand additional square feet of space. Our tentative plans call for a combination gallery-auditorium on the first floor level of the proposed addition. The collection of modern art could be housed permanently in this area. In addition, an auditorium would provide an area for cultural gatherings, large group meetings, and for showing cultural films, music recitals, and other forms of the arts.

The ground floor level would be used to house museum objects and would be compatible with the proposed western frontier street to be constructed on the same level. The subbasement area would be used for much needed "cold" storage. Many artifacts, objects, and acquisitions have been heretofore placed in various storage areas away from the premises. It is hoped that this area will accommodate the many large items for which we do not now have appropriate storage space.

The addition has been carefully planned to be harmonious with the existing structure and will, in fact, add to the architectural integrity of the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building.

#### TRAVELING EXHIBITS

We feel that the facilities and services of the Montana Historical Society could be expanded to accommodate other cities and towns in Montana to a greater degree than has been possible in the past. It is most important that the Society go to the people, so that they may take a more

active interest and participation in the work. The plant and man power are available--in a limited way--to accomplish a part of this goal at this time. Tentatively, we propose to do the following:

Construct traveling exhibits which would be available to libraries, schools, and other institutions within the state, pointing up Montana's history from territorial times through statehood. A series of exhibits would visually depict:

- (1) Famous Montana personages
- (2) The Open Range Cattle Era
- (3) The Homestead Era
- (4) Indian Fur Trade Era
- (5) Prehistoric Montana
- (6) Gold Rush Era

These would, through graphic illustrations, artifacts, and text, enhance the viewer's knowledge of Montana's past as well as germinate new ideas for the future. The materials are available now. The time and talent are available, a tentative plan has been established. Again, finding the necessary funds remains a problem. Materials for construction of these exhibits, plus funds for shipping and crating, are all that are lacking. This would be a giant step forward for our institution. The collections of art, photographs, documents, and artifacts--many of which are now in storage--would be seen and enjoyed by many residents of Montana who have not had the opportunity to visit the Society's building or who have lacked the time during their occasional visits to become deeply immersed in the study of Montana's past.

*"It is for our people now to say whether they will preserve the early history of Montana in an enduring form, so that after times may know the thrilling drama here enacted."*

Thomas J. Dimsdale, Editor  
The Montana Post  
April 1, 1865



